

Buildings' Demolition Approved

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The demolition of three East Bay Street buildings owned by the State Parks Authority was approved Wednesday, but interested citizens will have 90 days to contact the owners about saving part or all of at least one of the structures.

Charleston's Board of Architectural Review approved the demolition of 660, 662 and 664 East Bay St. But the board members made the demolition permission effective 90 days from Wednesday, after a plea from the director of the Historic Charleston Foundation.

Mrs. S. Berry Edmunds, foundation director, said the building at 662 East Bay St. could possibly be moved to another location in the city or portions of the building could be saved for other uses. An SPA representative at the meeting said interested citizens could contact the SPA.

In other action, the board deferred a request for preliminary approval to construct 12 condominiums at 106 Lockwood Dr. The request was presented by the Historic Charleston



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Foundation, and several of the board members had reservations about the design of the condominiums.

"I don't think it looks urban, I think it looks beachy," said board member James H. Small. His opinion was shared by another board member, Thompson E. Penney, who said the buildings were not designed to look tropical in the sense that Charleston is tropical, but were instead more like "a Hawaiian tropical."

The director of the city's Department of Planning and Urban Development recommended the preliminary approval of the Lockwood Drive plans, which were designed by Lowcountry Design Associates. D. William Wallace said the architect had done a good job of designing the buildings within the context of the surrounding neighborhood.

"It's not that this is a neighborhood that has a harmonious, one style of architecture," Wallace said. Several buildings were moved to a site nearby on Lockwood Drive, "and quite honestly, I don't think any of them are very attractive buildings," he said.

The board set a special meeting date of Oct. 18 at 5 p.m. to deal with the Lockwood Drive project.

Approval was granted for two new retail shop signs to be erected on poles at 212 and 214 King Street. But the city may eventually order the signs to be removed if a commission now studying the issue reaches a conclusion about the number and location of the sign standards on King Street.

BAR Chairman Charles Steinert said a city ordinance states that it is illegal to erect the sign standards on the King Street sidewalks south of Wentworth Street. A city commission is studying the issue, and its recommendations may result in a future order to remove some of the signs, Steinert said.

The board also granted preliminary approval to renovation plans for 28 Chapel St.